

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 ACDA-12 OES-07
NRC-07 /108 W
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R 101445Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1502
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS MOSCOW 10250

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, UR, SF, WA
SUBJECT: TASS ARTICLE ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

1. MAY 5 RED STAR CARRIES BRIEF MAY 4 TASS ITEM DATELINED LONDON WHICH CLAIMS THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA IS STEPPING UP PREPARATIONS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS. ARTICLE GOES ON TO CITE SOUTH AFRICAN RAND DAILY MAIL AS REPORTING THAT THE EXPLOSION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST ATOMIC BOMB WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE KALAHARI DESERT. ARTICLE THEN ALLEGES THAT U.S., BRITISH, FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN MONOPOLIES PLAYED "A DECISIVE ROLE" IN CREATING A MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX CAPABLE OF PRODUCING THE ATOMIC WEAPON IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE TASS TICKER CARRIED THE SAME ARTICLE LATE MAY 4 WITH ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS THAT:

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-- THE WESTERN "MONOPOLIES" SUPPLIED "WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS, NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND REQUIRED EQUIPMENT TO THE PRETORIA REGIME FOR A LONG TIME."

-- DIRECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD ROUX DECLARED THAT SOUTH AFRICA OWES ITS PROGRESS IN THE CREATION OF A NUCLEAR INDUSTRY "TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND

TECHNICAL AID OF THE USA", AND THAT THE "ASSISTANCE OF OTHER NATO NUCLEAR POWERS" PERMITTED SOUTH AFRICA TO TRAIN ITS NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERING TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

-- ISRAEL DESERVES "A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE BUILDUP" OF SOUTH AFRICAN WAR POTENTIAL AND PRODUCTION OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS.

ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT "THE CLOSE COOPERATION OF NATO MEMBER STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE APARTHEID REGIME IN THE CREATION OF A NUCLEAR POTENTIAL IS A SOURCE OF GREAT CONCERN FOR THE AFRICAN PUBLIC." TOON

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Message Attributes

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